

Brethren Evangelist.

"LET US GO ON UNTO PERFECTION."

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For terms, instruction, etc., see page 16.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

J. W. Beer, of Vernalis, Calif., sent us a contribution for the new hymn book. It is entitled "Baptismal Hymn."

Work on the *Annual* is progressing. Ministers whose names do not appear in the last issue of the *Annual*, or those desiring change of address will please notify us at once. This is important and you should attend to it at once if you want your name to appear correctly in the ministerial list.

The Hymn book committee reports progress, but it will be sometime before the work will be complete. It is something that should not be hurried. There will be a cheap word-edition for the use of Sunday schools and others desiring it in that form. The committee is ready to receive hymns and music, original or selected from any of our brethren and sisters. Suggestions will be thankfully received.

On September 24, there was dedicated in the city of Cleveland, a Jewish Temple in the services of which Methodist Episcopal, Presbyterian, Disciple, Congregational, Baptist and Episcopal ministers took part. Large numbers of the members of different churches were present. Either the Jews are becoming liberal concerning the Christ of Christianity, or those who represent the religion of Jesus are making too many concessions. Yet this is one thing in which there is no difference between Jews and Christians. Both worship the same God. We, through a Christ who has come, they through one who is to come. In connection with this it may also be mentioned that during the International Christian Endeavor Convention, held in Cleveland, hundreds of Hebrew homes were voluntarily thrown open for the entertainment of delegates, and every possible courtesy was shown them.

Let us pray for an overpowering faith, such as they then had.

The work of Dr. Parkhurst in New York City is a striking and impressive example of what *one man can do*. Consecrated to the cause of the master, he has labored persistently against sin and vice in all their various forms, and *he has triumphed*. Sin and the devil declared that the Dr. had undertaken the impossible, that he had stepped outside the sphere of the Christian ministry, and that he ought to confine himself to his pulpit and let politics and the saloon alone. He has *won*. Through his exposure of vice, impurity and wickedness in high places, the public conscience has been aroused, and on election day the sentiment of the people declared in favor of purity and righteousness. Here we have the result of one man's influence in favor of right. If every member of the Christian church were thus consecrated the conversion of the world would be a matter of only a few years.

The frequent change of pastorates on the part of some ministers is by no means desirable. There are many advantages in a long pastorate—advantages both to the pastor and people, whereas the advantage of a short pastorate, if there be any, is on the side of the pastor only. The following from the *Presbyterian* are timely words, and we commend them to the consideration of our brethren and sisters in the ministry, and also to that portion of the laity, desiring too frequent changes. "Some ministers are very restless. They are hardly warm in their nests when they want to get out of them. The first blast of criticism or of opposition encountered, or the first cause for discouragement, causes them to feel uncomfortable and they begin setting in motion agencies through which to secure a more desirable pastorate. Flitting ministers never amount to much, either as preachers or as workers, because they lack staying power. They rarely remain long enough to test their gifts; or, if they do, they are so constantly on the lookout for better places that they do not exert fully what is in them where they are. It is a duty, as it should be a pleasure, to make the best of one's situation until the Lord unmistakably calls him elsewhere. The motto of the successful pastor is contentment with his field of labor, and the making the best of the materials at his hand for his blessed Lord."

Every follower of Christ has an undisputed right to preach the gospel—man and woman—who lives a Christian life. The officers, such as elders and deacons, in the early church, were not especially charged to preach the gospel only, but their special work was to oversee the congregation, take care of the poor, and the like.

CORRESPONDENCE INVITED.

We are anxious that the work of this Mission be extended as rapidly as possible and any who are interested are invited to send inquiries for this department, report progress made, and how the Lord is blessing the work, personal testimonies on how Christ is using you as his servant, etc. But let numbers to God. Churches are in the habit of saying so many were saved, so many taken from the enemy, etc. The number of accessions should be given, but we do not know what is in the heart, and to count people as saved before the contest with sin is over, is counting too soon. Reports in general terms are best.

GUIDANCE.

We are guided by the Providence of God, by the Word of God, and by the convictions of the Holy Spirit. I do not say impressions, because that does not go deep enough. I say convictions. An impression may be upon your intellectual nature, but a conviction strikes clear down to the conscience. The Holy Ghost can put convictions upon us that are as deep as our very souls. And so God leads us.

The Lord never makes one of these things to conflict with the other. The Holy Ghost never guides us contrary to the Word. The Word never guides us contrary to Providence; and Providence does not guide us contrary to the Word or Spirit. So that these three elements of Divine guidance are always harmonious. When you want to be divinely led, consult God's Providence, and consult God's Word, and consult the convictions of the Spirit upon your heart; and the Lord, if you are humble and teachable, will see that you are properly led.

If we serve God in deed and in truth, surely we will praise Him, and there is no greater joy to the child of God than to praise the Lord and be in His service.